Present situation in USSR

461. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:
CHOWDRY HARI SINGH:
KUMARI ALIA:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's assessment of current events in the Soviet Union; how have they affected the Indo-Soviet Union ties and its effect on other parts of the World; and

(b) whether any contracts have been made with President Gorbochov; if so, what is his attitude towards India after recent events and stand taken by Indian Government during the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Poliitcal developments in the USSR are taking place at a rapid pace. Government are constantly monitoring and analyzing these developments with a view to ensuring that they do not have adverse impact on Indo-Soviet relations. It is too early to predict the impact of these changes on the world at large.

(b) Yes Sir. Prime Minister had sent a message to President Gorbachev on 22 August 1991 expressing relief and happiness on his and his family's well-being and satisfaction of the Government and people of India on his resumption of duties as the President of the USSR. President Gorbachev has sent a reply to Prime Minister's message in which he has conveyed his gratitude for the stand that the leadership of India and the Prime Minister personally had taken in regard to the attempted putsch in the USSR on 19 August, 1991.

Allotment of ISD/STD Telephone connections

462. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are liberally allotting ISD/STD telephone conntctions on commercial basis;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines in this regard; and

(c) the number of such connections allotted during the last one year, Statewise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. A franchise scheme for establishing public payphones by voluntary organisations/private agencies individuals has been introduced since July, 1988 to provide the general public better accessibility to telephones.

(b) Existing guidelines are given in the Statement.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

To provide the general public better accessibility to public telephones, it has been decided to franchise voluntary organisations as well as private enterpreneurs to install, maintain and operate such payphones subject to following terms and conditions, in general:—

(i) The number of agencies to be franchised in a city/town will depend on population.

(ii) The payphones may be coin/token or Card operated, at the choice of the operating agency.

(iii) For each payphone, the Department will provide a telephone connection parented to a suitable telephone exchange, with an appropriate termination at the location of payphone.

(iv) The operating agency will provide and maintain its own coin/token/card operated payphone duly approved by the DOT and operate it. DOT will maintain the telephone connection except the instruction.

(v) The operating agency will be permitted to charge Re. 1/- per unit call from the public.

(vi) For payphones providing *only* local call facility, hireless will pay 60 paise per unit call to DOT and will retain 40 paise with them as commission. There is no separate rental or installation charges for such payphones. However, there is a guaranteed minimum charge for 500 calls units *i.e.* Rs. 300 per month.

(vii) For STD/ISD payphones, hirers will retain commission @ 20 paise per unit call upto 10,000 calls in a month and @ 10 paise per unit call thereafter in a month. There is no separate rental or installation charges. However, there is monthly guaranteed minimum amount of Rs. 1600 per month.

(viii) The operating agency are required to make a security deposit in the form of either cash or bank guarantee to cover six months minimum guarantee amount initially to be adjusted later to 3 months average revenue for each payphones.

The above terms and conditions, including call charges, Commission payable, minimum guaranteed amount are subject to change.

LTTE militants sneaking into the country

463. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than five hundred LTTE militants had sneaked in the country through coastal waters of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to apprehend the LTTE militants in the country; and

(c) what precautionary measures Government propose to take to prtvent the sneaking of LTTE militants into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER O STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOM AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a According to available information LT militants have been using the coast waters of Tamil Nadu to infiltrate in India.

(b) and (c) The State Governme have informed that sustained action being taken to eradicate militant LTT activities and to check their infiltratio into India. This includes setting up check posts and intensification of patrol ing on shore and off shore. The Cent Govenment is providing all possible a sistance to the State Government in th regard.

..Pakistan military experts in Kashmir

464. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistar Military experts have sneaked into Kash mir to supervise the ongoing militar movement in the Valley;

(b) if so, whether Government ar aware of their presence in the Valley;

(c) whether I.B. Officials had informe about those activities; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereo and the action taken by Government i this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THI MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OI STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMI AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) There are some unconfirmed reports that some Pak military officers have sneaked into the Valley.

Government has already stepped up vigil on the border to check infiltration. In addition, security of vital installation has also been beefed-up.